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Directorate of Intelligence
6 December 1991

Hizballah Terrorist Plans Against US Interests [REDACTED] b3

Summary

There is a strong possibility of a terrorist attack against US interests in Beirut within the next few weeks. [REDACTED] b1 b3

[REDACTED]

This memorandum was prepared by [REDACTED] b3
with a contribution from [REDACTED] Office of Leadership
Analysis. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the
Chief, CTC [REDACTED] secure or [REDACTED] non-secure.

Approved for Release

Date JUN 1999

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Hizballah Terrorist Plans

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[REDACTED] in Damascus on 30 November that he had "good information" that some Hizballah elements are planning to kidnap additional Westerners and that there is a death threat against him.

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Hizballah dissidents oppose the release of Western hostages while approximately 300 Lebanese prisoners are still detained by the Israelis and 10 Hizballah terrorists are imprisoned in Western Europe. Tel Aviv still holds prominent Hizballah cleric Shaykh Ubayd; according to released hostage [REDACTED], several hostage guards personally know and highly regard Ubayd. The dissidents have staged previous operations to protest hostage releases and to free imprisoned Hizballah members.

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-- In August, Hizballah elements linked to the Hammadi clan abducted a French relief worker to protest the McCarthy release. The Hammadi clan also orchestrated the 1989 kidnapping of two German hostages to press for the release of the Hammadi brothers imprisoned in Germany.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] reports that Hizballah is planning a car bomb attack on the US Ambassador and is targeting CIA officers in Beirut. Some members reportedly also are plotting to attach an explosive device to an Embassy employee's car or to a vehicle nearby.

[REDACTED]

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In the communique that announced the release of Alann Steen on 2 December, hostage holders warned that the "conspiracy" in Madrid and Washington would be crushed and that the "hand of America would be cut off" and "everyone who has negotiated will fall."

- Hizballah elements are leading suspects in last month's car-bombing at the American University in Beirut, staged a week after the conclusion of the peace conference in Madrid.

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The Iranian Role

It is possible that Tehran has approved low-level terrorist operations against US interests--such as sniper attacks--to allow Hizballah elements to vent their animosity toward the United States. These Hizballah elements may include former hostage holder Imad Mughniyah.

-- Tehran, however, would oppose the abduction of additional hostages in order to preserve the Iranian political capital gained as a result of the recent releases.

Security Environment in Lebanon

Ambassador Crocker discussed US concerns with Prime Minister Karami on 4 December, who promised that necessary security measures would be taken. Lebanese security patrols sweep the neighborhood surrounding the US Embassy every three hours and have augmented perimeter security at the Embassy.

-- a car bombing inside the Embassy is a remote possibility given the strict security measures in place. Rigid travel restrictions—including the use of armed escorts—for the US personnel at the Embassy also have reduced the likelihood of kidnappings. Lebanese security officials believe a rocket or sniper attack is the most likely operation.


Despite tighter security, the threat to US personnel outside the Embassy and of standoff attacks on the US compound remain high.

Increased security at the Embassy may force some Hizballah terrorists to focus on less protected targets, as was the case in last month's bombing at the American University in

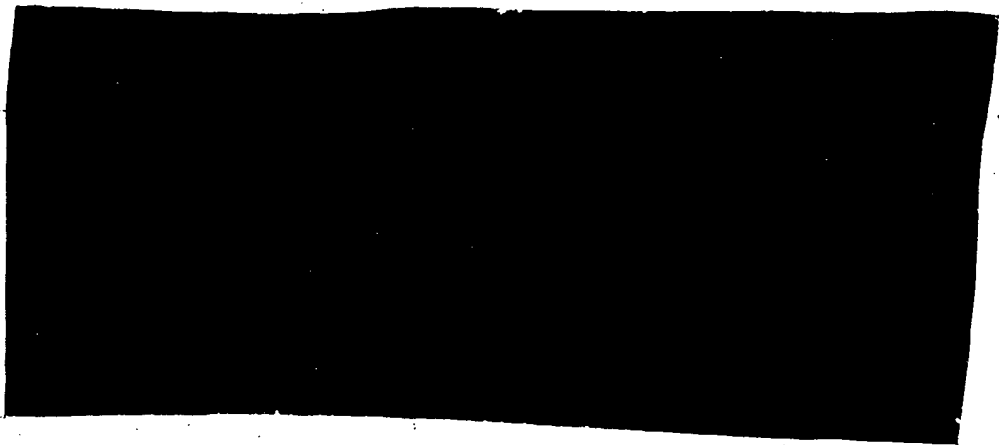
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Beirut. The Embassy RSO plans to visit US-affiliated facilities in Beirut to apprise them of the threat and suggest additional security measures.  b3

Possibility of Attacks Outside Lebanon



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